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To the Editor
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All the oil in Kuwait is not worth the life of one citizen of the United States of America.

The invasion of Kuwait by Iraq was a classic example of a demand for action by the United Nations. No nation should have taken any unilateral action. The United States, as a leader of the free world, should, immediately, have demanded an emergency session of the UN in order to gain a world-wide consensus. Subsequent action by the United States would have depended on this consensus and the objectives of its action could then have been clearly defined.

By his hasty and ill-considered action of mobilizing a massive military force, President Bush compromised the UN, and made any action or pronouncement by it appear to be dictated by the United States. It embarrassed the Secretary General and gave Saddam Hussein reason to tell him that he was a puppet of the United States, which he most certainly did. This premature unilateral action also has inspired the Islamic world to call for Holy War against the "Great Satan".

The whole situation is now a venture of the United States, and our country is in the humiliating position of passing the hat for money to pay for it. But again, the bottom line is that all the oil in Kuwait is not worth the loss of a single American life. Congress, not the President, declares war. No one in the White House, or in the Pentagon is going to stop a bullet or lose a limb.

Very truly yours,

D. J. Henderson